[English]

Loans from International Markets without Permission of Government

6008. PROF. ASHOK ANAND RAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Sector Undertakings, State Governments and Financial Institutions can taken loans from the international market without the prior permission of the Central Government or Reserve bank of India;

(b) if so, the guidelines being followed in this regardl; and

(c) the number and names of beneficiaries which have so far availed of this facility during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Export of Unpolished Granite Stone

6009. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that huge quantum of granite stone is being quarried from hills in the country for export purposes;

(b) if so, whether these activities are likely to affect the ecology of the country;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to take steps to prevent the export of unpolished granite stones; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) Granite mining is being carried out in consonance with various provisions of Minor Mineral concession Rules of States and the laws relating to environmental protections.

(c) and (d). There is no proposal to ban export of unpolished granite stones.

Rediscounting of Export Bills of Small Scale Units

6010. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRIMATI RITA VERMA:
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRI N.K. BALIYAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial assistance provided by the Exim bank under the scheme 100% funding support to commercial bank through rediscounting of export bills of small scale units during 1990-91 and 1991-91; and

(b) the number of small scale units benefited under the scheme during the above period in each state?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The amount of financial assistance provided by the Exim Bank under the funding support to commercial banks through discounting of export bills of small scale units during 1990-91 and 1991-92 is given below:

1990-91 (April-March)	*1991-92 (April-March)*
Rs. 200.00 Crores	Rs. 152.90 Crores

(b) Exim Bank have reported that since the rediscounting facility to commercial banks is on a portfolio basis and not on a transaction basis, they do not have information relating to the number of small scale units benefitted under the scheme during a particular period.

[*Translation*]

Waiving of Loans of Farmers and Weavers

6011. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of loans proposed to be provided to farmers and weavers separately by the nationalised banks in various States in 1992-93;

(b) the amount of loans of weavers waived-of so far in the various States; and

(c) the amount of loans to be waived-of during 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Banks do not fix State-wise/ year-wise targets for providing financial assistance to various categories of borrowers. However, Public Sector Banks have been asked to raise their proportion of their credit to priority sector to 40% of their total advances. Direct Finance extended to agriculture (including allied activities) is to reach 18% of their total credit and the advances to weaker sections, which includes small and marginal farmers and landless cultivators and artisans, are to reach a level of 10% of their total credit or 25% of the priority sector advances.

(b) and (c). The Hon'ble Member is presumably referring to the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, 1990 under which debt relief was extended to eligible borrowers including farmers, artisans and weavers in rural areas only, to the extent of Rs. 10,000/- per borrower to cover all overdues on short-term and term loans advanced by the public sector banks, regional rural banks and cooperative banks, w..e.f. 15th May, 1990. The total amount of relief provided by all credit institutions under the scheme was Es. 7714.14 crores. No separate cotegory-wise break-up of relief provided is available since the reporting system does not generate such in formation. The Scheme of debt relief has already come to an end on 31.3.1991.

Construction of Berths at Kandla Port

6012. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct more berths at Kandla Port in addition to Seventh berth under construction at present; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A proposal for construction of 8th General Cargo Berth at an estimated cost of Rs. 37.20 crores was received from Kandla Port Trust. It has been referred back to the Port for obtaining views of III Madras regarding the design and location of the berth.